

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 332

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the late Troy Vanatta upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding citizens who dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual was Troy Vanatta, who was posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 7, 2015, for his legacy as a technician for the Tennessee Artificial Breeding Association; and

WHEREAS, born July 17, 1921, to Azel and Annie Lee Fuller Vanatta, Troy Vanatta and his identical twin brother, Roy, were raised in the Mahone community near Watertown on the family farm, where they milked cows and raised tobacco, corn, and similar crops; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Watertown High School with honors in 1940, Mr. Vanatta was drafted in July 1942 and served in World War II, stationed in England and France until the War's end in 1945; and

WHEREAS, after the war, he returned home to the family farm, married Betty Patton of Watertown in 1947, and began his career as a technician for the Tennessee Artificial Breeding Association in 1951, serving Wilson and DeKalb counties; and

WHEREAS, in his work with the Tennessee Artificial Breeding Association, Mr. Vanatta earned an exemplary reputation for his hard work and dedication; Mrs. Vanatta was an

instrumental part of his success, as she answered calls from morning until noon from farmers who needed service that afternoon; and

WHEREAS, as service grew, a new technician, Ralph Rowland, was hired to serve DeKalb County, while Troy Vanatta continued to serve Wilson County; in the late 1960s, Select Sires bought the Tennessee Artificial Breeding Association, and Mr. Vanatta continued to serve as the technician for Wilson County until his untimely passing in November 1975; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Troy Vanatta accomplished 36,016 first services: in 1960, after 10,000 services, the company awarded him with a gold watch; that same year, after 25,000 first services, the company awarded him with a check; and in 1970, after 35,000 first services, he received the National Association of Animal Breeders award; and

WHEREAS, the ever-helpful neighbor, he acquired valuable knowledge of cattle and cattle diseases over the years and helped his fellow cattle farmers vaccinate and treat their cattle; for this purpose, he kept boxes of medicine in the trunk of his car to sell at cost to local farmers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the Tennessee Artificial Breeding Association, Mr. Vanatta taught artificial breeding classes at Middle Tennessee State University and occasionally taught agriculture classes at Watertown High School, and he was a great supporter of local Future Farmers of America programs; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Central Association of the Tennessee Artificial Breeding Association, he served on the association's board of directors, executive committee, and Bull Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vanatta was one of this State's first members to join the American Chianina Association and produced one of the first Chianina calves in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded member of the Wilson County community, Troy Vanatta served on the Wilson County Fair Board, for which he was usually in charge of the dairy section, and in the 1960s, he and Roy were part owners of the fair. The brothers also lent their talents as singers to numerous church revivals and funerals; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly honor the memory of the late Troy Vanatta for his valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of the late Troy Vanatta on the occasion of his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame as we reflect fondly upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.